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RURAL DISTRICT OF HEREFORD

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1957

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

RICHARD WOOD-POWER

B.A., F.R.C.S.(Ire), D.P.H.



*which includes the*

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DONALD FODEN

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



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# HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

*Medical Officer of Health :*

**R. Wood-Power, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Ire.), D.P.H.,**  
**Public Health Department,**  
**21, East Street,**  
**Hereford.**  
24th May, 1958.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hereford Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report for the above District for the year 1957.

The birth-rate was 15.1 per 1,000, and the death-rate was 12.8 per 1,000 (and when adjusted by the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General, were respectively 18.0 and 9.7 per 1,000), and the infant mortality rate 22 per 1,000 births.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector is appended hereto.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. WOOD-POWER.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

*Clerk to the Council—*

R. A. SYMONDS, M.A.(Cantab.) (Part-time).

*Medical Officer of Health—*

R. WOOD-POWER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.(Ire.), D.P.H.  
(Part-time).

*Chief Public Health Inspector—*

DONALD FODEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,  
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.

*Additional Public Health Inspector—*

P. A. THOMAS, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.

One-half of the salary of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspectors is contributed from grants.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	1921	1931	1951	1957
Area in acres ... ..	65,669	65,669	65,669	65,669
Population (Census) ...	13,894	13,448	17,489	—
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	—	—	—	17,900
Structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census) ...	2,970	3,146	4,015	*4,334
Private Families (Census) ...	3,012	3,207	4,018	—
No. of Parishes ... ..	39	39	39	39
Rateable value, 31st March... £	135,217	52,172	67,937	144,826
A Penny Rate produces ...	£429	£207	£280	£651
„ „ „ Housing (1919) Act ...	—	£206	£301	£682

*\* Calculated for year 1957 from Rate Book*

	Total M. F.			
Live Births—Legitimate	256	132	124	Birth rate 15.1
Illegitimate	15	7	8	(adjusted 18.0)
Still Births ... ..	6	3	3	Rate 0.33 per 1,000 Total population.
Deaths ... ..	230	110	120	Death rate 12.8 (adjusted 9.7)

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	22
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	19
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	66
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... ..	2
„ „ Malignant Neoplasms (all ages) ... ..	26
„ „ Measles (all ages) ... ..	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	0



### **Physical Features and General Character**

The Rural District of Hereford is situate in the middle of the county, and completely surrounds the city of Hereford. It is bounded on the north by the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District, on the north-east by the Bromyard Rural District, on the south by the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District, and on the west by the Dore and Bredwardine and Weobley Rural Districts. The middle of the district is low-lying.

In the north Dinmore Hill rises to a height of 747 ft., in the south Orcop Hill to 958 ft., and Aconbury Hill 905 ft., on the west Credenhill is 720 ft., while on the eastern side are Dinedor 595 ft., Backbury 738 ft., and Westhide 422 ft.

The district is well watered. The river Wye flows across from west to east in a very tortuous bed, and the rivers Lugg and Frome flow from north to south until they empty into the Wye. In the low-lying portions, following the courses of the rivers, is alluvial deposit.

Geologically the district is Old Red Sandstone. Credenhill, Dinedor, Dinmore and Callow hills are of Cornstone formation.

The subsoil is gravelly loam in those parishes through which the rivers flow, and in the remainder of the district for the most part marl or clay.

The population at the Census of 1951 showed an increase of 4,041 persons in the Rural District, and varied in the thirty-nine Parishes within the Area from 19 in Dinmore to 2,972 in Credenhill.

### **Legislation in Force**

Bye-laws with respect to Hop and Fruit Pickers were made in 1909, they were amended during 1937; Tents and Vans in 1912, they were amended during 1955; New Buildings in 1918, they were amended during 1954; and Food Bye-Laws in 1950. The Council has adopted Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 requiring the registration of dealers in old metal and marine stores.

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

## **Professional Nursing in the Home**

There is an adequate number of District Nurses/Midwives in the Area to cover all Parishes.

Their services are provided by the County Council and the Nurses are under the supervision of the Superintendent Nursing Officer.

## **Laboratory Facilities**

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at the County Hospital, Hereford, where Dr. D. R. Christie is in charge.

The chemical analyses of water samples are carried out by Rowland H. Ellis, Esq., of Gloucester.

## **Hospitals**

Hospital Services for the County of Hereford are under the Management of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee, who are responsible for the control of all Hospitals, to which patients can be admitted in case of need.

## **Ambulance Facilities**

Motor Ambulances for sitting or stretcher cases operated by the Herefordshire Joint Ambulance Committee as agents for the local health authority are stationed at County Ambulance Headquarters, Canal Road, Hereford (*Telephone*: 4451/2/3), and are available for the removal of any cases on Medical Authority, on application to the Ambulance Headquarters at the above address.

Trained attendants are on duty day and night to accompany the Ambulances.

## **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Orthopaedic	...	..	...	County Hospital and B.R.C.S. Red Cross Hut, Blackfriars Street, Hereford.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **Water Supplies**

There are privately owned piped water supplies to houses in certain parishes in the area but shallow wells or springs provide supplies in many instances, although in recent years deep bores have been sunk in quite a number of cases. In the parishes of Aconbury, Little Birch, Much Birch and Little Dewchurch, many houses are particularly badly off for water.

A scheme for a supply of water to houses at Shucknall Hill, Weston Beggard was completed in 1938 and the Hereford City Supply is laid on to parts of various parishes which adjoin the City boundary.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government decided that this Council should operate the Ex R.A.F. supply with pumping station at Eaton Bishop and this supply was extended to the parishes of Eaton Bishop, Clehonger and Allensmore during the year. The supply provided for the new Council Houses at Much Birch has been extended to Wormelow and a further extension to part of Much Dewchurch Parish has been completed. A proposal to provide the Parish of Withington and parts of adjoining parishes with water from a deep bore hole was the subject of a Ministerial Enquiry and the Minister's decision is still awaited.

### **Sewerage and Drainage**

There is no general system of sewers in the area.

There are two or three areas in the district where housing development took place in pre-war years on the assumption that it would later be possible to connect up to main sewers, but on the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 this provision had to be abandoned. The need for such service still exists. A scheme of Sewage Disposal for the Parish of Fownhope was prepared and is still under consideration. The Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare plans, etc., for the sewerage of Kings Acre Road, Breinton, and parts of the Parish of Holmer, where existing means of sewage disposal for each individual house are extremely bad and give rise to considerable nuisances.



## Swimming Baths and Pools

None in the district.

## Eradication of Bed Bugs

No infestations were discovered.

## National Assistance Acts, 1948 & 1951

No action was necessary during the year.

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

## General.

No cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid or Para-Typhoid Fever, Meningococcal Infection or Acute Encephalitis were notified during the year.

There were sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever all of which occurred in different Parishes. Four cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and the remainder isolated at home. No deaths occurred from this disease.

The number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough which were notified showed a decrease compared with the number notified during 1956.

Two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis—both Non-Paralytic—were notified, and one case was treated in hospital.

## Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks ...	...	...	...	...	1
(b)	Number of cases ...	...	...	...	...	1
(c)	Number of deaths ...	...	...	...	...	0
(d)	Organisms or other agents responsible : Salmonella Typhi Murium.					

Foods involved :—Not ascertainable.



HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT  
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1957

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DISEASE	Sex	All Ages	CASES NOTIFIED													Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
			Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	55-	65- over		
Scarlet Fever	M. F.	9 7	— —	— 1	— 1	1 2	1 1	7 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	4	—
Diphtheria ...	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	M. F.	3 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	— —	— —	2 —	—	—
Pneumonia	M. F.	12 7	1 —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	1 2	1 2	1 —	1 1	4 2	—	10 10
Measles ...	M. F.	4 4	— 1	— —	— 2	2 —	1 —	— 1	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—	—
Dysentery ...	M. F.	1 5	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 2	— 1	— —	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —	—	—
Food Poisoning	M. F.	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—	—
Non-Paralytic ...	M. F.	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1	—
Acute Encephalitis	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	M. F.	10 18	— —	1 2	3 1	2 2	— 2	3 8	1 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—	—
					CASES				Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths					
					Notified	Treated											
						At Home	In Hosp'l										
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	...	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —

TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven cases, five deaths.

AGE— PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ... ..	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
45 ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	3	1	1	3	2	—	—

In no case was there wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

On the 31st December, 1957, there were on the Register the following cases :

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
57	43	17	12

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)  
REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary during the year.

**CAUSES OF DEATH, 1957**

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	3	2
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
3. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1
4. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	2	2
5. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	2
6. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	3
7. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	2
8. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	4	6
9. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—
10. Diabetes ... ..	—	—
11. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	8	12
12. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	22	15
13. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	3	1
14. Other heart disease ... ..	25	28
15. Other circulatory disease ... ..	8	9
16. Influenza ... ..	2	7
17. Pneumonia ... ..	10	10
18. Bronchitis ... ..	4	1
19. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	—
20. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	2	1
21. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea ... ..	—	1
22. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	2
23. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—
24. Congenital malformations ... ..	3	1
25. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	9
26. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	—
27. All other accidents ... ..	—	4
28. Suicide ... ..	1	1
TOTAL ...	110	120

**INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1957**

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age :—

4 hours	Prematurity
15 hours	Prematurity
1 day	Congenital Abnormality
1 day	Prematurity
2 days	1 (a). Broncho Pneumonia (b). Left Plural Effusion
	2. Prematurity.
6 days	Hydrocephalus and Spinal Bifida

The following report has been given by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Donald Foden, on work carried out during the year ended December, 1957.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

As required by Article XVII (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections under :—								<i>Number</i>
Housing Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2483
Housing—Tenancy Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	378
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	380
Dairies & Milk Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Food & Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	264
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Other Premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Damage by Pests Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Temporary & Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	304
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Out Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

### Housing

The survey of all houses in the area has been completed and has revealed the fact that apart from houses which will have to be demolished a very considerable number are in need of repair, and action to secure their being made fit in every respect is being taken, and 297 houses were found to be incapable of repair at a reasonable cost and will have to be demolished.



## UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES

(a)	UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT					
1.	After informal action	...	...	...	...	60
2.	After formal notice under :					
	(i) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	2
	(ii) Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	UNFIT HOUSES DEMOLISHED	...	...	...	...	7
(c)	UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	...	...	...	...	10

## RENT ACT, 1957

	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	8
(a)	Certificates issued	...	...	...	...	6
(b)	Landlord's undertaking received	...	...	...	...	2

## NEW HOUSES

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(a)	Total	...	...	...	...	...	68
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—						
	(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	36
	(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	7

The Council, who own 56 pre-war houses, have formulated a programme for the provision of new houses in the area, and decided that the allotments should be distributed as far as possible over the whole district.

The following houses have been constructed by the Council since the war :—Much Birch (22), Burghill (20), Clehonger (22), Much Dewchurch (6), Dormington (6), Eaton Bishop (8), Fownhope (40), Holme Lacy (18), Lugwardine (22), Marden (18), Mordiford (32), Preston Wynne (8), Stoke Edith (4), Stretton Sugwas (30), Sutton (8), Wellington (18), Weston Beggard (10), Withington (24).

The Council were allotted eight brick huts with asbestos roofs at the former R.A.F. Camp at Madley, in the Dore and Bredwardine Rural District, and these have been adapted to provide 29 bungalows, each of which has a bathroom and w.c., water is laid on, and all have main drainage.

### **Nuisances.**

Eleven Statutory Notices were served during the year, requiring the abatement of nuisances arising from disrepair of houses and drainage disposal. All other nuisances were satisfactorily overcome by informal action.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

Twenty-six cases of infectious diseases were investigated and 23 rooms and 16 lots of bedding were fumigated.

### **Water Supplies.**

Eleven samples have been submitted for Chemical Analysis and 140 samples for Bacteriological Examination, with the following results :—

	<i>Satisfactory</i>				<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical ... ..	...	...	...	3	8
Bacteriological ... ..	...	...	...	69	71

### **Dairies and Milk Supplies.**

There are on the register 21 distributors of milk, of whom one is a distributor of T.T., Pasteurised and Sterilised milk, sixteen are distributors of both T.T. milk and Pasteurised milk, whilst three retail only T.T. milk and one retails only Pasteurised milk. In addition, so far as is known, there are 20 producers of milk, who are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, who are also distributors in the area of milk for retail sale. Of this latter number eight are known to be retailing T.T. milk, and five purchase and retail Pasteurised milk and seven retail both T.T. and Pasteurised milk,

**Dairies and Milk Supplies** (*Continued*).

Twenty-three samples of T.T. and Pasteurised Milk were submitted for examination with the following results :—

Satisfactory	...	...	23
Unsatisfactory	...	...	0

As from the 1st October, 1956, the whole of the Hereford Rural District became part of a Specified Area, so that only T.T., Pasteurised, and Sterilised milk may be sold by retail therein.

**Food and Food Premises.**

The number of known food premises in the Area is as follows—

General Food Shops...	...	...	...	...	51
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	4
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Canteens	...	...	...	...	27
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	37
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	67

Twenty-nine premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 as follows :—

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	27
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	2

During the year, 204 inspections of food premises were carried out, of which 42 related to registered food premises and the initial survey of premises under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56 was still proceeding at the end of the year. At the majority of premises visited, it was discovered that there was non-compliance with some of the provisions of the Regulations and informal intimations were sent to the persons concerned.

Twenty-five samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were reported upon as falling within the following Provisional Grades :—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	22
„ Grade II	...	...	2
„ Grade III	...	...	1
„ Grade IV	...	...	—

Food and Food Premises (Continued).

One knacker's yard is registered within the Area and one slaughterhouse is licensed and the following table sets out the carcases inspected and condemned wholly or in part and these figures include 1 calf and 12 sheep which were the subject of emergency slaughter at places elsewhere than at the licensed slaughterhouse.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	36	—	1	123	26	—
Number inspected	36	—	1	123	26	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cystercerci</i> Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	6	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	9	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.1%	—	—	12.2%	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

In addition, 6 lbs. of Canned Beef was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was destroyed after condemnation.

All condemned food was disposed of by incineration.



**Factories**

There are 57 factories within the district, all with mechanical power.

**1. Inspections :**

<b>Premises</b>	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
Factories with mechanical power ...	26	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ... ..	20	4	—
TOTALS ... ..	46	4	—

**2. Defects found :**

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Defects</i>			<i>Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness ...	7	7	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient ...	4	4	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	14	14	—	—

**3. Outwork in unwholesome premises—Nil.**

**Hop Pickers.**

The By-laws in connection with accommodation for persons engaged in the gathering of Hops, Fruit and Vegetables made in 1909 were rescinded, and new By-laws made by the Council and confirmed by the Minister of Health came into operation on the 20th August, 1937.

About 350 pickers came from outside Herefordshire, chiefly South Wales and the Midlands, to 7 farms. Barns, stables and other outbuildings are utilised for their accommodation although in the majority of cases specially erected buildings are provided.

The number of pickers decreased still further during 1957 as still more farms installed mechanical picking machines.

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.**

One Inspector/Operator is employed, but his services are shared jointly with the Ross and Whitchurch R.D. and the Ledbury R.D. The table set out hereunder records his work in this area during 1957 :—

	Prem- ises In- spected	No. of In- spec- tions	Total Infes- tations	RATS		Writ- ten In- formal Notices	Statu- tory Notices
				Major	Minor		
Local Authority's Properties ...	3	73	13	3	10	—	—
Dwelling Houses ...	165	224	85	—	85	—	—
Business Premises ...	28	46	17	3	14	—	—
Agricultural Properties ...	97	148	84	1	83	—	—
TOTALS ...	293	491	199	7	192	—	—

The operational work carried out was on property belonging to the Local Authority—no treatments are carried out on a contract basis or otherwise at private properties.

No Statutory Action was necessary during the year under review.

**Temporary and Movable Dwellings.**

These present a problem of some magnitude, and one not likely to be diminished until the general housing shortage becomes less acute.

The owner of one site was prosecuted during the year for using an unlicensed site and a fine of £5 was imposed by the Petty Sessional Court.

**Refuse Collection.**

There is in operation a system whereby refuse is collected in each of the 39 parishes in this district once in every four-weekly period, and in certain areas near Hereford City such collection is effected once in each fortnight.

During 1957, 639 loads of refuse—approximately the equivalent of 3,780 cubic yards—were collected and hauled to the three disused quarries used for disposal. A total of 13,084 miles was involved.

During the year the Council purchased a new and larger refuse collection vehicle, and it might be found possible to arrange for more frequent collections to be carried out.

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